

SECTION 14

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

14.1 Identification of Known Paleontologic Sites

A paleontological assessment was prepared in April 2001 for the project site and proposed gas pipeline corridor by LaRamie Soils Service (Attachment O). The assessment showed that: (1) no known vertebrate fossil localities occur at the energy facility site or along the pipeline right-of-way, and (2) the rocks included in the alluvial units or the Tylerhorse, Palmdale, post-Palmdale deposits are not fossiliferous. The nearest vertebrate fossil locality is within the Harold Formation in the foothills on the north side of the San Gabriel Mountains. While portions of the Harold Formation are located within the project site and pipeline right-of-way area, they are at least 400 feet below the surface and are not expected to be affected by construction or operational activities.

The potential for vertebrate fossils in the rocks immediately under the energy facility site or the pipeline right-of-way site is predicted to be extremely low. (Note: The bottom of the pipeline trench will be 3 to 4 feet deep.) Based on findings from a literature and database search as well as a field survey, the Lancaster Energy Facility site and the gas pipeline right-of-way are not considered paleontologically sensitive and vertebrate fossils are not expected to be found during construction.

14.2 Proposed Mitigation if Required

As discussed in Section 14.1, because the Lancaster Energy Facility site and the gas pipeline right-of-way are not paleontologically sensitive, no mitigation will be necessary for paleontological resources at the project site or along the pipeline right-of-way.